

November 17, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. RM-11348 - Reallocation of 30 MHz Spectrum (747-762/777-792 MHz) From Commercial Use

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) proudly serves Oregon's fire service and strives to provide leadership and valued services to support fire chiefs and administrative officers throughout the state. The OFCA is concerned with the ever-increasing demands on our limited resources. This concern has never been greater as we reconcile critical interoperable communications requirements with inadequate spectrum resources.

In Oregon, the men and women in public safety must be prepared to confront disasters such as sweeping wildland fires, massive earthquakes, and terrorist threats to our infrastructure as well as daily incidents requiring multiple agency response. The preparedness of our response systems and access to the necessary tools is critical to our ability to successfully command and control emergency incidents with a multidisciplinary approach. The current inability to readily communicate between "patchworked" and disparate radio systems has proven to impede critical operations and threaten responder safety.

A nationwide, next generation, wireless broadband network can bring to public safety greater operability, interoperability and access to technology in a mobile environment. Interoperability on a regional, statewide and nationwide level is within our grasp if the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission will allocate additional spectrum in the 700 MHz band for the creating of a nationwide wireless IP network for public safety.

The OFCA joins its peers in the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in supporting the principles outlined within petition RM-11348 that proposes deployment of an advanced, nationwide,

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
November 17, 2006
Page 2

wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety's increasing communications needs. The system will be financed and maintained through a public/private partnership without requiring local, state or federal funds. The OFCA supports allocation of an additional 30 MHz of spectrum at 700 MHz to public safety and the creation of a Public Safety Broadband Trust (PSBT).

As time is short to ensure that this spectrum is assigned to the Public Safety Broadband Trust for priority use in public safety operations, and to ensure that it is not auctioned for purely commercial use, we urge our Members of Congress and the FCC to act swiftly to sponsor and support this innovative approach to meeting critical public safety communications needs.

Sincerely,

John F. Fowler
John F. Fowler, President
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association